AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 1,~~A method for ensuring that data generated by a client, comprising a first computing device, and subsequently stored in a persistent storage of the client have not been modified when the data are subsequently accessed for use by the client, the method comprising:

the client computing a first digest from the data;

the client sending the first digest to a server for signature computation;

the server, comprising a second computing device, computing a signature for the first digest by utilizing a secure signing algorithm and a key, the key known only by the server and available for use only by the server;

the server sending the signature to the client for storage;

the client storing both the signature and the data in the persistent storage of the client;

before the stored data being subsequently used by the client, the client computing a second digest from the stored data;

the client sending both the second digest and the signature stored in the persistent storage to the server to verify that the stored data has not been changed;

the server receiving both the second digest and the signature stored in the persistent storage;

the server generating a temporary signature of the second digest by utilizing the secure signing algorithm and the key known only by the server and available for use only by the server;

the server comparing the temporary signature to the signature stored in the persistent storage;

when the temporary signature is equal to the signature stored in the persistent storage, the server sending a positive result to the client;

when the temporary signature is not equal to the signature stored in the persistent storage, the server sending a negative result to the client;

wherein the data comprise a plurality of different sets of data, and the method further comprising:

obtaining a signer identification (SID) for the client, the SID uniquely indicating the client and not being controlled by an operator of the client;

on the server, using the key for computing an intermediate key from a concatenation of an arbitrary value and the SID;

sending the intermediate key from the server to the client;

using the intermediate key to sign each set of the data to produce the signature for the set of data; and

storing the signature, the arbitrary value, and the SID on the persistent storage.

12 – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, further comprising

determining if the SID that was received from the client is on a list of banned SIDs, and if so, indicating in the result that the set of data are not usable by the client.

15 – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer memory medium on which are stored machine readable instructions which, when executed on one or more computer processors, perform the method of claim 11. ~~claim 1~~.

20 – 36. (Canceled)